

Leatherhead's defence will be hard to crack

LEATHERHEAD visit Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) for an Isthmian League match against Wycombe Wanderers, brimming with confidence after a 2-0 win over Enfield last Saturday and a 5-3 triumph at Dulwich Hamlet on Tuesday.

The victory over Enfield completed a fine double for the club and two of Enfield's four defeats this year. On Tuesday leading scorer Peter Lavers led the way with a hat-trick to take his season's tally to 11.

But although letting in three goals, it seems that the main strength of the Surrey club is in defence. They have conceded only 16 goals in 18 outings, eight of which have been won, four drawn and six lost.

Centre-half Dave Reid is the pivot in the back four while Barry Davis, who was sacked by Wycombe in September for refusing to be substitute, has taken over at full-back due to injury problems.

DANGER MAN

Upfront, Leatherhead have been finding scoring goals as difficult as Wycombe. Tuesday night did much to raise their 'goals for' from 25 to 30.

Apart from Lavers, Nobby Skinner is another danger man in attack, a player who uses the wing to good effect.

Chris Kelly and John Cooper have five goals apiece and Cooper has been playing especially well in recent weeks. Recent honours for the club include five players in F.A. Amateur XI's against the R.A.F. and the Army.

Wanderers themselves have only one doubt for tomorrow, veteran Tony Horseman, who has a bruised knee after Saturday. Once again Wycombe manager Brian Lee will have problems in finding the right formula.

Providing 'Bodger' is fit, Mr. Lee will have five players bidding for three places. Mick Holifield scored on Tuesday night and did much to command a place in the side while Tony Amos's winner alone should see him back in the team after being substitute on Tuesday.

Johnny Hutchinson did not look happy in the number ten shirt against St. Albans while newly signed Keith Jameson is likely to keep his midfield role.

But whatever the final line up, Wanderers can be certain of a hard task ahead of them and Leatherhead's defence could prove a difficult barrier to crack.

LEATHERHEAD (probable team):
P. Smith, B. Davies, A. Brazier, H. Friend, D. Reid, D. Wells, J. Cooper, C. Kelly, P. Lavers, N. Skinner, B. Webb, sub. D. Casey.